REMARKS

Applicants are filing this response within the shortened statutory period. Consequently, Applicants believe that no fee is due with this filing; however, if a fee is due please charge Deposit Account No. 502295.

The Office Action Summary does not indicate whether there the drawings filed on October 8, 2003 and the amended drawing of FIG. 7 submitted with the Amendment and Response of February 17, 2006 are acceptable. Therefore Applicants request that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings are acceptable in the next communication.

Claims 1-3 and 5-16 were presented for examination in the Amendment and Response of February 17, 2006. The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 12-14 and allows claims 15 and 16. The Office Action states that claims 8-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This paper cancels claims 1-3, 5-8, 10 and 12-14, amends claims 9 and 11, and adds new claims 17 and 18. Claims 9, 11 and 15-18 are now pending in the application.

Objection to Claims 6 and 8-11

The office action objects to claims 6 and 8-11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants cancel claim 6 herein rendering the objection to claim 6 moot.

Applicants have added new claim 17 which includes all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 7 and 8. Applicants have added new claim 18 which includes all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent 10. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance. Claims 9 and 11 depend directly

from claims 17 and 18, respectively, and incorporate all of their limitations, therefore Applicants submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,388 by Hennick et al. (hereafter "Hennick"). Applicants herein cancel claims 1-3, 5, 12 and 13 rendering the rejection moot.

Rejection of Claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennick and rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennick in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 005805423 by Wever et al. Applicants herein cancel claims 7 and 14 rendering the rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks made herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 41,047

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